

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEAE-00 L-01 IGA-01 OES-02
EB-04 TRSE-00 INR-05 DODE-00 CIAE-00 NSC-05
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P 201349Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2434
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMOCNSUL JERUSALEM 7134
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 AMMAN 4072

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, EAID, JO, US, IS
SUBJECT: MAQARIN WATER RIGHTS--U.S. WORKING PAPER

REF: AMMAN 4040

FOLLOWING IS REVISED FULL TEXT OF U.S. DRAFT WORKING
PAPER AS AMENDED BY JORDAN PER REFTEL.

QTE: THE UNITED STATES HAS OFFERED ITS GOOD OFFICES
TO ISRAEL AND JORDAN IN RESPECT TO THE WATER
ALLOCATION IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSED MAQARIN DAM-
YARMOUK RIVER PROJECT.

THE UNITED STATES UNDERSTANDS THAT ISRAEL AND
JORDAN HAVE ACCEPTED THE FOLLOWING:

A. WATER FOR THE YARMOUK (ADASIYE) TRIANGLE--
THE PRINCIPLE OF THE CONTRIBUTION OF YARMOUK
RIVER WATER TO THE TRIANGLE SHOULD BE RESPECTED AND
STRUCTURES FOR WATER STORAGE AND CONVEYANCE IN
CONNECTION WITH THE CURRENT PROJECT SHOULD PROVIDE
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FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION. SPECIFICALLY, A TOTAL OF
25 MILLION CUBIC METERS (MCM) WILL BE AVAILABLE
ANNUALLY FROM THE YARMOUK RIVER TO THE TRIANGLE.
AFTER THE COMPLETION OF CONSTRUCTION OF THE MAQARIN
DAM, RELEASES FROM THE MAQARIN RESERVOIR WILL MAKE
POSSIBLE THE PROVISION OF UP TO 2.3 CUBIC METERS
PER SECOND (CMS) FOR USE DURING THE APPROXIMATELY

FOUR MONTHS OF THE DRY, LOW-FLOW PERIOD TO BE COUNTED AGAINST THE TOTAL OF THE ABOVE 25 MCM. DURING PERIODS OF DROUGHT (WHEN WATER AVAILABLE FOR RELEASE FALLS BELOW THE AMOUNT REQUIRED AT THE DIVERSION WEIR (SEE (B) BELOW) TO MEET THE ALLOCATION OF THE TRIANGLE AND THE NEEDS OF THE AREA SERVED BY THE EAST GHOR MAIN CANAL), THE WATER DEFICIT WILL BE SHARED IN PROPORTION TO THE AREA OF LAND BEING IRRIGATED IN THE YARMOUK TRIANGLE AND THE AREA OF LAND BEING IRRIGATED IN THE AREA SERVED BY THE EAST GHOR MAIN CANAL. FLOWS PASSING THE DIVERSION WEIR AND NOT ALLOCATED TO THE TRIANGLE (RESIDUAL FLOWS) ARE TO BE AVAILABLE FOR DOWNSTREAM USE. THE USE OF SUCH RESIDUAL FLOWS WILL NOT BE THE BASIS FOR A FUTURE CLAIM FOR THE ALLOCATION OF SUCH WATER.

B. DIVERSION WEIR AT ADASIYE-EAST GHOR MAIN CANAL INTAKE--

A WEIR WILL BE CONSTRUCTED IN THE VICINITY OF THE EXISTING EAST GHOR MAIN CANAL INTAKE ON THE YARMOUK RIVER TO PROVIDE FOR THE CONTROL AND REGULATION OF WATER INTO THE EAST GHOR MAIN CANAL AND INTO THE YARMOUK TRIANGLE. JORDAN WILL BUILD THE WEIR AT ITS EXPENSE WITHOUT HINDRANCE AND WITH ACCESS PERMITTED TO BOTH BANKS OF THE YARMOUK AS NECESSARY FOR CONSTRUCTION. ISRAEL WILL REVIEW THE
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ENGINEERING DESIGNS FOR THE WEIR AND THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATIONAL PLANS FOR THE REGULATION AND FLOW OF YARMOUK WATERS (PREPARED ON THE BASIS OF THE PRINCIPLES SET FORTH IN PARA (A) ABOVE). THE UNITED STATES WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE GOOD OFFICES TO ISRAEL AND JORDAN IN THIS REGARD.

C. THE WEST BANK--

THE UNITED STATES UNDERSTANDS THAT JORDAN AND ISRAEL AGREE THAT THE WEST BANK HAS NEEDS FOR THE PROVISION OF WATER FROM THE JORDAN RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES AND THAT THE WEST BANK IS ENTITLED TO A REASONABLE AND EQUITABLE SHARE IN THE BENEFICIAL USE OF JORDAN RIVER BASIN WATERS. JORDAN AND ISRAEL ALSO ACCEPT THE NEED TO REVIEW WEST BANK (WEST GHOR AND ZOR) AGRICULTURAL

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DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL, WATER NEEDS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR THE FUTURE, RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO PROVIDE THOSE REQUIREMENTS AND THE POSSIBLE MEANS OF CONVEYANCE, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE FACT THAT BOTH ACCEPT THE PRINCIPLE OF MAKING THE MOST EFFECTIVE AND FULLEST UTILIZATION OF TOTAL WATER RESOURCES. JORDAN WILL CONTRACT FOR SUCH A STUDY AND PROVIDE TO ISRAEL THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR REVIEW AS WELL AS THE RESULTS OF THE STUDY. JORDAN WILL EXPLORE FURTHER THE AVAILABILITY OF GROUND WATER RESOURCES IN THE EAST PART OF THE JORDAN VALLEY IN ORDER TO DETERMINE HOW THESE RESOURCES CAN BEST BE DEVELOPED TO MOST EFFECTIVE USE.

D. ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS--
QUESTIONS OF ECOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS, OF WATER QUALITY, AND THE PALESTINE ELECTRIC POWER CORPORATION CONCESSION, AS THESE MAY BE AFFECTED BY THE PROJECT, WERE DISCUSSED. WITH REGARD TO ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT, THE UNITED STATES
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ADVISED ISRAEL AND JORDAN THAT IT WOULD HAVE TO REVIEW THE IMPACT OF THE PROJECT--INCLUDING SUCH ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS AS THE EFFECT OF THE PROJECT ON THE JORDAN RIVER AND THE DEAD SEA--IN CONNECTION WITH ITS OWN FUTURE DECISION AS TO WHETHER IT MIGHT ASSIST, ALONG WITH OTHER DONORS, IN FINANCING THE

ACTUAL CONSTRUCTION OF THE MAQARIN DAM. BOTH JORDAN AND ISRAEL WILL COOPERATE IN THIS REVIEW AND PROVIDE NECESSARY DATA. THE WATER QUALITY QUESTION WAS REVIEWED AND IT WAS CONCLUDED THAT THE PROJECT WOULD NOT ADVERSELY CHANGE THE PRESENT QUALITY OF WATER AVAILABLE TO DOWNSTREAM USERS. ISRAEL AND JORDAN DO NOT CONSIDER THE ISSUE OF THE PALESTINE ELECTRIC POWER CORPORATION CONCESSION AN IMPEDIMENT TO PROCEEDING WITH THE MAQARIN DAM AND ARE PREPARED TO CONSIDER ITS RESOLUTION AT AN APPROPRIATE POINT IN THE FUTURE.
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